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CONTROL OF DISEASE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The State Board of Health of Massachusetts has issued an amended list of diseases, cases of which must be reported by physicians immediately. The diseases and conditions now notifiable in Massachusetts are as follows:

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|---|---------------------------|
| Actinomycosis. | Leprosy. |
| Anterior poliomyelitis. | Malaria. |
| Anthrax. | Measles. |
| Asiatic cholera. | Mumps. |
| Chicken-pox. | Pellagra. |
| Diphtheria. | Plague. |
| Dog bite (requiring antirabic treatment). | Rabies. |
| Dysentery: | Scarlet fever. |
| (a) Amebic. | Septic sore throat. |
| (b) Bacillary. | Smallpox. |
| Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis. | Tetanus. |
| German measles. | Trichinosis. |
| Glanders. | Tuberculosis (all forms). |
| Hookworm disease. | Typhoid fever. |
| Infectious diseases of the eye: | Typhus fever. |
| (a) Ophthalmia neonatorum. | Whooping cough.. |
| (b) Suppurative conjunctivitis. | Yellow fever. |
| (c) Trachoma. | |

Every case of these diseases attended by a physician must be immediately reported by him to the local health officer in writing. In the absence of an attending physician, the householder is to report the case.

The local health authorities report to the State department of health daily the cases which have occurred, with the names and addresses of the patients. This keeps the State Commissioner of Health at all times informed of the prevalence and geographic distribution of the controllable diseases throughout the State. It shows the foci of infection. It reveals the manner and direction in which outbreaks are spreading. It shows where reenforcement of the field forces and extra effort are needed to prevent the spread of disease and protect the Commonwealth.

Of special interest in connection with the diseases and conditions made notifiable is the inclusion of cases of "dog bite requiring anti-

rabic treatment" and, in diseases of the eye, of suppurative conjunctivitis in addition to ophthalmia neonatorum and trachoma.

The requirement that cases of dog bite be reported is an illustration of notification resulting in benefit to the patient as well as affording information which enables measures to be taken for the protection of the community. The State department of health administers antirabic treatment free of cost to persons bitten by rabid animals or by animals suspected of having rabies.

The State has properly assumed the responsibility for the prevention of rabies and the administration of antirabic treatment. The community, and not the person bitten, is responsible for the presence of rabid animals. It is reasonable, therefore, that the community assume the burden of treating those injured by its neglect.

The new diseases and conditions which were added to those previously notifiable are:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Dog bite (requiring antirabic treatment). | Malaria. |
| Dysentery: | Mumps. |
| (a) Amebic. | Pellagra. |
| (b) Bacillary. | Plague. |
| German measles. | Rabies. |
| Hookworm disease. | Septic sore throat. |
| Suppurative conjunctivitis. | |

SALE AND USE OF COCAINE AND NARCOTICS.

By MARTIN I. WILBERT, Technical Assistant, Division of Pharmacology, Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health Service.

Two of the three Harrison antinarcotic bills introduced in Congress some time since in compliance with the requirements agreed to at the several sessions of the International Opium Conference were enacted into law in January of this year. The third bill, which in effect provides for the interstate traffic in coca and opium, their alkaloids and derivatives, was adopted by the House and later by the Senate. The final bill, with amendments, was referred to a conference committee, but was not reported out in time to be acted on by the House, though the conference report was approved in the Senate before the adjournment of the second session of the Sixty-third Congress.

Practically every State in this country has at the present time a reasonably efficient antinarcotic law, which, if it were not virtually inoperative, because of the continued, apparently uncontrollable importation of such drugs from without the State, might serve to effectually restrict the sale and use of narcotics of all kinds.

Even in States in which passive efforts are made to enforce the existing laws, so far as traffic within the State may be concerned,